

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06
AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO US CUSTOMS HQ HQ WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 2700
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
DEA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS SNAR, BU, PFOR, US
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN PRESS CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC
SUPPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS US/BULGARIAN COOPERATION

USIA PASS IBS/PE
STATE FOR S/NM AND EUR/EE
CUSTOMS FOR IOD
PARIS AND ROME FOR DEA AND CUSTOMS
VIENNA FOR WALTZ

REF: SOFIA0378

1. GOB HELD TWO-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 30 35 MINUTES OF
WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROADCAST ON PRIME TIME TV (2030)
FOLLOWING NEWS EVENING MARCH 31, REGARDING BULGARIAN EFFORTS TO
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INTERDICT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC ACROSS BULGARIA. DISCUSSIM OF
US/BULGARIAN COOPERATION IN FIELD PLAYED PROMINENT PART IN
BROADCAST.

2. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED BULGARIAN CUSTOMS DIRECTOR LAZAR
BONEV, RECENT VISITOR TO US AS PARTICIPANT IN SENIOR-LEVEL
OBSERVATION PROGRAM OF US CUSTOMS; MRS. ALEKSANDRINA KOCHKOVA

OF STATE CHEMIST'S ADMINISTRATION OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH; AND NIKOLOV STOICHEV OF CHIEF PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. BONEV DISCUSSED PROBLEM PRESENTED BY BULGARIA'S LOCATION ASTRIDE MAIN DRUG TRAFFIC ROUTE BETWEEN PRODUCING MIDDLE EAST AND CONSUMING WESTERN EUROPE AND US. HE THEN DISCUSSED EFFORTS OF SMALL BULGARIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE TO MEET THIS PROBLEM, PROVIDING STATISTICS ON 1976 SEIZURES (REPORTED REFTEL). HIS DISCUSSION OF TECHNIQUES OF INTERDICTION APPEARED TO DRAW UPON INFORMATION GAINED DURING HIS VUHTO US.

3. BONEV STRESSED THAT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AND SPOKE OF VALUE OF COOPERATION OF "ESPECIALLY MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUES" IN THAT REGARD. HE ALSO MADE POINT THAT COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION WAS CONSISTENT WITH CSCE FINAL ACT, A NEW PRE-BELGRADE TACK FOR GOB.

4. HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL KOCHKOVA'S PRESENTATION OUTLINED PROCEDURE FOLLOWED BY STATE CHEMIST ADMINISTRATION IN RECEIVING AND DESTROYING NARCOTICS SEIZED BY BULGARIAN CUSTOMS. COMMENT: HER STATEMENTS PROBABLY WERE INTENDED TO DAMPEN REPORTS THAT GOB RESELLS SEIZED NARCOTICS IN WEST. END COMMENT) STOICHEV OF STATE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OUTLINED PENALTIES FOR DRUG VIOLATORS IN BULGARIAN PENAL CODE AND STRESSED STRICTNESS OF ENFORCEMENT. (BONEV HAD PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED THAT NO BULGARIANS HAD YET BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC INTERDICTED BY CUSTOMS.)

5. MIDDLE SEGMENT OF PRESS CONFERENCE CONSISTED OF TEN-MINUTE FILM ON DRUG PROBLEM AND ACTIVITIES OF BULGARIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE. INTRODUCTION TO FILM INCLUDED "THANKS TO OUR AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLLEAGUES" FOR PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE AND SOME SEGMENTS. FILM OPENED WITH SCENES OF SUFFERING ENGLISH-SPEAKING ADDICTS AND THEN SHOWED BULGARIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN ACTION AT BORDERS, INSPECTING VEHICLES, QUESTIONING TRAVELLERS AND DISCOVERING CACHES OF NARCOTICS. SEGMENT ON TRAINING OF BULGARIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS INCLUDED 70-SECOND CLIP OF US CUSTOMS OFFICIAL HAROLD BARBAGELATA ADDRESSING BULGARIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS (PROBABLY AT LAST SUMMER'S TRAINING SESSION) AND COMPLIMENTING BULGARIAN CUSTOMS ON ITS EFFICIENCY. VOICEOVER NOTED THAT BULGARIAN/US COOPERATION HAD "FULLY EQUAL VALUE" FOR BOTH SIDES.

6. BONEV HAS ALSO SENT LETTER TO US CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER ACREE (WHICH EMBASSY IS POUCHING), EXPRESSING THANKS FOR VISIT AND PROVIDING INFORMATION (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REFTEL) REGARDING BULGARIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIELD OF NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION DURING 1976.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PRESS CONFERENCES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA00747
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770126-0671
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770465/aaaacese.tel
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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